

CLAIMS

2 What Is Claimed Is:

1. An auto-calibration label comprising:

4 first encoded calibration information corresponding to a first sensor,
wherein the first information is adapted to be utilized by a first instrument to
6 auto-calibrate, whereby the first instrument is calibrated for the first sensor;
and

8 first additional encoded calibration information corresponding to a
second sensor, wherein the additional information is distinct from the first
10 information and is adapted to be utilized by a second instrument different
from the first instrument to auto-calibrate, whereby the second instrument is
12 calibrated for the second sensor.

14 2. The label of claim 1, comprising second encoded calibration
information corresponding to the second sensor, wherein the second information
16 corresponding to the second sensor is adapted to be utilized by the first instrument to
auto-calibrate such that the first instrument is calibrated for the second sensor and the
18 second information corresponding to the second sensor is at least equivalent to the
first information corresponding to the first sensor.

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3. The label of claim 2, wherein the first information corresponding to the
22 first sensor is the same as the second information corresponding to the second sensor
and the second information is distinct from the additional information.

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4. The label of claim 1, wherein the first information corresponding to the
2 first sensor also corresponds to the second sensor.

4 5. The label of claim 1, wherein the additional information overlays the
first information.

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6. The label of claim 5, wherein the additional information overlays the
8 first information such that the first instrument is capable of utilizing the first
information without utilizing the additional information and the second instrument is
10 capable of utilizing the additional information without utilizing the first information.

12 7. The label of claim 5, comprising an insulating layer between the first
information and the additional information.

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8. The label of claim 7, comprising:

16 a first conductive ink pattern defining the first information that is
adapted to be utilized by the first instrument; and

18 a second conductive ink pattern defining the additional information
that is adapted to be utilized by the second instrument.

2 9. The label of claim 8, wherein:

 the first conductive ink pattern comprises one or more electrical
4 contacts located to couple the first pattern with the first instrument when the
label is positioned to be utilized by the first instrument; and

6 the second conductive ink pattern comprises one or more electrical
contacts located to couple the second pattern with the second instrument when
8 the label is positioned to be utilized by the second instrument.

10 10. The label of claim 9, wherein the insulating layer is located between
the first conductive ink pattern and the second conductive ink pattern.

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 11. The label of claim 10, wherein the insulating layer comprises a
14 dielectric.

16 12. The label of claim 8, wherein:

 the first conductive ink pattern comprises inner and outer rings; and

18 the second conductive ink pattern comprises inner and outer rings.

20 13. The label of claim 12, wherein the insulating layer is located between
the ink patterns, and wherein the inner and outer rings of the first pattern are below the
22 insulating layer and the outer ring of the second pattern is below the insulating layer.

14. An auto-calibration label adapted for use with a first instrument, a
second instrument distinct from the first instrument and a sensor operable with both
the first instrument and the second instrument, wherein the label comprises:

first instrument encoded calibration information corresponding to the
sensor and adapted to be utilized by the first instrument to auto-calibrate such
that the first instrument is calibrated for use with the sensor; and

second instrument encoded calibration information corresponding to
the sensor and adapted to be utilized by the second instrument to auto-calibrate
such that the second instrument is calibrated for use with the sensor, wherein

the second instrument encoded calibration information is distinct from
the first instrument encoded calibration information.

15. The label of claim 14, comprising:

a first conductive ink pattern defining the first instrument encoded
calibration information; and

a second conductive ink pattern defining the second instrument
encoded calibration information.

16. The label of claim 15, wherein the first pattern is electronically isolated
from the second pattern.

2 17. The label of claim 15, comprising an insulating layer between the first
and the second pattern, wherein:

4 the first pattern comprises one or more electrical contacts located to
couple the first pattern with the first instrument when the label is positioned to
6 be used by the first instrument;

 the second pattern comprises one or more electrical contacts located to
8 couple the second pattern with the second instrument when the label is
positioned to be used by the second instrument; and

10 the insulating layer is adapted to insulate the first pattern from the
second pattern while allowing the electrical contacts of the first pattern to
12 couple with the first instrument and allowing the electrical contacts of the
second pattern to couple with the second instrument.

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 18. The label of claim 17, wherein:

16 the insulating layer and the first pattern are adapted to allow the first
pattern to be utilized by the first instrument while preventing the second
18 instrument from utilizing the first pattern; and

 the insulating layer and the second pattern are adapted to allow the
20 second pattern to be utilized by the second instrument while preventing the
first instrument from utilizing the second pattern.

2 19. A sensor package adapted for use with a first instrument and a second
instrument, the sensor package comprising:

4 one or more sensors operable with the first instrument and the second
instrument; and

6 an auto-calibration label comprising:

 first instrument encoded calibration information corresponding
8 to the sensor and adapted to be utilized by the first instrument to auto-
calibrate such that the first instrument is calibrated for use with the
10 sensor, and

 second instrument encoded calibration information
12 corresponding to the sensor and adapted to be utilized by the second
instrument to auto-calibrate such that the second instrument is
14 calibrated for use with the sensor, wherein

 the second instrument encoded calibration information is
16 distinct from the first instrument encoded calibration information.

18 20. The package of claim 19, comprising one or more blisters respectively
containing the one or more sensors, wherein the blisters are arranged around the auto-
20 calibration label.

22 21. The package of claim 19, wherein the auto-calibration label comprises
an insulating layer between the first instrument encoded calibration information and
24 the second encoded calibration information.

2 22. The package of claim 21, wherein the second instrument encoded
calibration information and the first instrument encoded calibration information are
4 layered with the insulating layer positioned there between.

6 23. The package of claim 19, comprising:

 a first conductive ink pattern defining the first instrument encoded
8 calibration information and comprising one or more electrical contacts
respectively associated with the one or more sensors and being located to
10 couple the first conductive ink pattern with the first instrument without
coupling the first conduct ink pattern to the second instrument; and

12 a second conductive ink pattern defining the second instrument encode
calibration information and comprising one or more electrical contacts
14 respectively associated with the one or more sensors and being located to
couple the second conductive ink pattern with the second instrument without
16 coupling the second conductive ink pattern to the first instrument.

18 24. The package of claim 23, wherein the first conductive ink pattern is
isolated from the second conductive ink pattern.

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 25. The package of claim 23, wherein the auto-calibration label comprises
22 an insulating layer isolating the first conductive ink pattern from the second
conductive ink pattern.

2 26. The package of claim 25, wherein the insulating layer comprises
predetermined cut-outs to selectively allow coupling between the first conductive ink
4 pattern and the first instrument while preventing coupling between the second
conductive ink pattern and the first instrument.

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 27. A sensor package adapted for use with a first instrument and a second
8 instrument, the package comprising:

 sensor means for receiving a sample, wherein the sensor means is
10 operable with the first instrument and the second instrument; and

 auto-calibration means for:

12 calibrating the first instrument for use with the sensor means
while preventing calibration information associated with the second
14 instrument from being utilized by the first instrument, and

 calibrating with the second instrument for use with the sensor
16 means while preventing calibration information associated with the
first instrument from being utilized by the second instrument.

- 2 28. A sensor package for use in a first instrument adapted to determine an
analyte concentration in a sample and a second instrument adapted to determine an
4 analyte concentration in the sample, the package comprising:

 one or more sensors for receiving the sample and being operable with
6 the first instrument and the second instrument; and

 an auto-calibration label comprising:

8 first instrument encoded calibration information corresponding
to the one or more sensors and adapted to be utilized by the first
10 instrument to auto-calibrate such that the first instrument is calibrated
for use with the one or more sensors to enable the first instrument to
12 determine an analyte concentration in the sample received by the one
or more sensors, and

14 second instrument encoded calibration information
corresponding to the one or more sensors and adapted to be utilized by
16 the second instrument to auto-calibrate such that the second instrument
is calibrated for use with the one or more sensors to enable the second
18 instrument to determine an analyte concentration in the sample
received by the one or more sensors, wherein

20 the second instrument encoded calibration information is
separated from the first instrument encoded calibration information.

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29. The package of claim 28, wherein the label comprises an insulating
24 layer between the first instrument information and the second instrument information.

2 30. The package of claim 29, wherein the label comprises:
 a first conductive ink pattern defining the first instrument encoded
4 calibration information; and
 a second conductive ink pattern defining the second instrument
6 encoded calibration information.

8 31. The package of claim 30, wherein the first instrument conductive ink
 pattern, the insulating layer, and the second instrument conductive ink pattern are
10 layered.

12 32. The package of claim 28, wherein the one or more sensors are
 substantial identical.

2 33. A sensor package adapted for use with a plurality of predetermined
instruments adapted to determine at least one of a plurality of predefined parameter
4 values associated with a sample, the package comprising:

 one or more sensors operable with the instruments to receive a sample;
6 a calibration information area;
 first instrument encoded calibration information located in the area,
8 wherein the information is adapted to be utilized by a first of the plurality of
instruments to auto-calibrate such that the first instrument is calibrated for use
10 with at least one of the one or more sensors to enable the first instrument to
determine at least one of the predefined parameter values associated with a
12 sample; and

 second instrument encoded calibration information located in the area,
14 wherein the information is adapted to be utilized by a second of the plurality of
instruments to auto-calibrate such that the second instrument is calibrated for
16 use with at least one of the one or more sensors to enable the second
instrument to determine at least one of the predefined parameter values
18 associated with a sample.

20 34. The sensor package of claim 33, wherein:

 the first instrument encoded calibration information is prevented from
22 being utilized by the second instrument; and

 the second instrument encoded calibration information is prevented
24 from being utilized by the first instrument.

2 35. The sensor package of claim 34, wherein:
 the first instrument encoded calibration information is prevented from
4 coupling with the second instrument; and
 the second instrument encoded calibration information is prevented
6 from coupling with the first instrument.

8 36. The sensor package of claim 33, comprising:
 a first conductive ink pattern defining the first instrument encoded
10 information;
 a second conductive ink pattern defining the second instrument
12 encoded information.

14 37. The sensor package of claim 36, wherein each conductive ink pattern
 comprises one or more electrical contacts respectively associated with the one or more
16 sensors and wherein the one or more electrical contacts of each pattern are arranged to
 couple with the instrument corresponding to the encoded information defined by the
18 pattern.

20 38. The sensor package of claim 37, wherein the second instrument
 encoded calibration information and the first instrument encoded carry similar
22 calibration characteristic information.

39. The sensor package of claim 36, comprising an insulating layer
2 between the first and second patterns, wherein the first and second patterns are
layered.

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40. An auto-calibration label comprising:

6 a first conductive ink pattern defining first encoded calibration
information adapted to be utilized by a first instrument to auto-calibrate the
8 first instrument;

a second conductive ink pattern overlaying the first conductive ink
10 pattern and defining second encoded calibration information adapted to be
utilized by the first instrument to auto-calibrate the first instrument; and

12 an insulating layer between the first ink pattern and the second ink
pattern.

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41. The label of claim 40, wherein at least one of the first conductive ink
16 pattern and the second conductive ink pattern is adapted to be used by a second
instrument to auto-calibrate the second instrument.

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42. A method of manufacturing an auto-calibration label, the method
20 comprising:

printing a first conductive ink pattern layer comprising encoded
22 calibration information;

printing an insulating layer to isolate the first conductive ink pattern;

24 and

printing a second conductive ink pattern comprising encoded
 2 calibration information, including printing the second conductive ink pattern
 such that it is isolated from the first conductive ink pattern.

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43. The method of claim 42, comprising printing a portion of the second
 6 conductive ink pattern while printing the first conductive ink pattern.

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44. A method of manufacturing a sensor package comprising:
 supporting one or more sensors by a substrate;
 10 applying to the substrate calibration information corresponding to the one or
 more sensors and a first instrument adapted to utilize the one or more sensors; and
 12 applying to the substrate calibration information corresponding to the one or
 more sensors and a second instrument adapted to utilize the one or more sensors.

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45. The method of claim 44, comprising applying the calibration
 16 information corresponding to the second instrument in an area of the substrate
 containing the calibration information corresponding to the first instrument.

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46. The method of claim 44, comprising applying a label to the substrate
 20 wherein the label comprises the calibration information corresponding to the first and
 second instruments.

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47. The method of claim 46, comprising positioning the label in a
 24 predefined area of the substrate.